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The Fierce Green Fire

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5-16-2019

### The Firece Green Fire: Vol. 9 Special Issue

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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#### Recommended Citation

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program, "The Firece Green Fire: Vol. 9 Special Issue" (2019). *The Fierce Green Fire*. 227.

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# The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Volume 9, Special Issue



## *Farewell to Black Science Annex*

To Black Science Annex

With Apogees to BEN JONSON

Thou were not, Black Science Annex, built  
for envious show, Of modern stucco; nor  
canst thou boast a pair polished Chihulys,  
escalator, or a roof of gold; Thou hast no  
up-lighting, whereof tales are told, Or code-  
worthy stairs, or potable water; but thou  
stand'st an ancient pile, gruded by  
maintenance headaches but have been  
reverenced by us for the while.

Thy front porch has rockers, thy eaves an  
Earth Flag, under which students do  
resort;  
and thy has classrooms within where Kaye,  
Amy, Pete, Terry, and John their high  
lectures have made; And nearby the broad  
maple and the greenhouse shade.

Thy dogwood in the courtyard, which of a  
nut was set at its great birth, is where Mark  
Olencki once fed contraband cats— oh  
Felix where are thou Ebony meows now!  
Yet there on vacant brick are still  
persists the painted portraits of disciplinary  
saints: Thoreau, Muir, Leopold, Carson  
and Shiva, but they too will be taken by the  
dozer's dauntless hold.

And once all this is gone like mist on  
Milliken Pond?

Let Winslow's noble coppers rise! (Though  
planted by the Roebuck nurseries!) Let  
Chris O's air-traffic control find a new  
landing suite of offices! Let Ferguson's  
copious storage find its future off-site  
home! Let Olencki's vintage Scotches rest  
somewhere else in safe repose! And Let  
new dreams soon lift rooftop gardens  
upward to the sky! Let stories of ENVIS  
Elysian Fields fill the ears of Jenn and the  
New John!

Now, Black Science Annex, it is true they  
will level thee, like other edifices, after  
asbestos abatement; they will collapse you  
inward in a pile, but now still before us, we  
see you—proud, ambitious heap—and  
nothing else. May we lift a glass or  
recyclable can to you! May we say  
goodbye—our department's ten-year  
humid home—before we dwell in our new  
sleek sustainable abode!

John Lane  
Thirsty Thursday  
May 16, 2019



*Views of the BSA Courtyard*